

Ringwood Manor
Ringwood, Passaic County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.H.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Ringwood Manor
Ringwood, Passaic County, New Jersey

Owner: State of New Jersey

Date of Erection: 1807 - 1810

Architect:

Builder: Martin Ryerson

Present Condition: Very good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - frame construction, stuccoed

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel and pitch

Historical Data:

Ringwood Manor was the home of the proprietors of Ringwood Furnace. The first furnace was opened about 1737 by Cornelius Board who disposed of his holdings to a syndicate of Newark and New York capitalists in 1740. In 1764 Ringwood was offered for sale and Peter Masenclever of London bought it for five thousand pounds. He was the founder of the American Iron Company or the London Company as it was commonly known. He came to America, it appears, about 1764 and established himself at Ringwood where he lived in great style. The first manor was built by him about 1765 and it was this house that was occupied by Erskine, surveyor-general of the Continental Army. Erskine came to

America in 1771 taking over the management of the property of the London Company.


After Erskine's death in 1780 his widow married Robert L. Hooper. Hooper managed the property for a few years. Then the story of ownership becomes complicated. The London Company through its American agent tried to salvage something of the original investment. Erskine it appears had been able to keep the property from being seized and sold by the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates. The English owners got James Old of Port Forge, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, to purchase the property in 1795 for nine thousand pounds. He shifted it to his son John. Shortly after this, the high sheriff of Bergen County sold the property for taxes and in 1807 Martin Ryerson acquired title. Ryerson tore down the old manor house and erected the main part of the present mansion. After Ryerson's death in 1839 his sons had difficulty in managing the property and finally in 1853 the sheriff of Passaic County sold it to Peter Cooper. From Peter Cooper the property passed to Cooper Hewitt and Company, then to Abram Hewitt, and then to his heirs who in 1937 gave the State of New Jersey title to Ringwood Manor.

The gambrel roof portion is the part built by Ryerson. The house was added to by the Hewitts until today it is a seventy-eight room structure.


Bibliography:

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Boyer, C. S. Early Forges and Furnaces in New Jersey Philadelphia, University of Pennsylvania Press, 1931


Supervising Historian

Approved:


SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.
District Officer

ADDENDUM TO
RINGWOOD MANOR
(RYERSON HOUSE)
Ringwood
Passaic County
New Jersey

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